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Corps asks public to help protect Dworshak elk areas

Orofino, Idaho, -- Fall hunting season is under way at nearby Dworshak Reservoir and the Grandad Elk Management Area is well-known for its excellent big game hunting opportunities. Hunters and other outdoor recreation enthusiasts using the area will find new barricades with signs noting areas where off-road vehicle access is restricted to protect the elk, according to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreation official here.

To diminish stress on the herds, Corps guidelines prohibit off-road motorized vehicle use in this critical winter range and calving ground. Motorized vehicle travel is only allowed on maintained primary roads, identified by gravel or paved surface with a ditch-line. Corps recreation officials have placed seven new barricades with signs at various locations throughout the management area to inform the public and prevent vehicle traffic in it.

"The area was established in 1977 after Dworshak Dam was built and the reservoir was filled to compensate for lost elk habitat. But, in recent years, land management activity adjacent to Corps lands resulted in new access points for motorized vehicles to enter into the Elk Management Area," said Heather Burke, a park ranger here. "Often, riders are not aware of access restrictions in the protected area and may inadvertently travel into it. Unauthorized motor vehicle use in the elk management area receives special attention due to the potential impact on these animals. We're asking hunters and public land users to help protect this area for the betterment of Idaho's elk herd," Burke said.

For information these controlled access areas, call the Corps' ranger staff here at (208) 476-1279.

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